

The Shofar

FBJC; Office of the Staff Chaplain; 5950 12th St, #101, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060 5539

Words from Ron Markiewicz

Jan Feb Mar 2017

**Tevet/Shevat/
Adar/Nissan 5777**

First, I would like to thank the Congregation for electing me to the Council and then to the Chair position. I consider it a genuine honor and will do my best to navigate our ship through the rough funding waters we are currently experiencing. I will be developing a plan as well as coordinating with like-minded people in and out of the Council to explore the calmer waters I believe are coming in the future. I especially wish to thank the former Chair, Jay Jupiter, for all the work, for which I am the beneficiary, that he did in getting the JAC and Hebrew School teacher contracts approved.

With that foundation, we can now start moving forward and helping ourselves. Sara is currently in the process of recruiting a Hebrew School teacher. That effort will be a major topic during the December council meeting. I would like to have three possible candidates so if anyone knows of a possible qualified person, please contact Sara or other JCC officers as soon as possible. To ensure our Shabbat services are effectively covered, I requested that Sara create a roster of eligible leaders to back up Rabbi Fel-

zenberg to allow the leader of the service adequate preparation time. Coming to services and being asked to lead is not fair either to the person nor to the Congregation. I would like to continue this procedure at least until we have a Rabbi assigned or contracted to this congregation.

I recently had a very cordial meeting with Chaplain Gunther from the Fort Belvoir's Chaplains Office. I want to try to bring in more active duty personnel from any of the bases in the greater DC area. Therefore, I requested population data of units we support and the names of contacts at bases in our area. I intend to contact as many influencers as I can to spread our message of support to the DC Jewish military community. This is not a limiter as all new members are welcome.

We will need to perform a thorough analysis of our funds and requirements almost immediately. Since the JAC and Hebrew Teacher are now paid by us (NAF funds) the activities that we supported in the past will need to be prioritized and supported in light of our available funds. I have asked Ryan to begin gathering the historical data about our previous funding.

The Congregation is fortunate to have another new member, Rebecca Miller, who has already taken

the initiative to begin updating the communications systems within our Congregation. Before we even attempt to bring in new members, we need to ensure our communications are up to speed. Her efforts are greatly appreciated.

What else will I be doing? Watching and listening for openers. I will also be using the position as Chair to represent the Jewish Military community when dealing with other organizations here at Fort Belvoir. I have already had an opportunity to do that. So, if you have a question, an issue or hopefully a recommendation, please let me know and I will promise that it will be considered.

B'Shalom,

Ron Markiewicz

Community News

We would like to thank the following people for sponsoring our Oneg Shabbat fellowships:

Sandra Mickelson, Bea Kleier, Josh Stahl. We would also like to thank Mindy Higgins, Leah Choper, and everyone who helps with set up and clean up.

We would like to wish the Stahl family a hearty Mazel Tov for the Bat Mitzvah of Rachael. It was wonderful seeing Rabbi Heather Borshof who led the services and the Stahl family who came from Dayton, Ohio for the big day.

A Mazel Tov to Col. Chris Brown on his recent promotion.

Mazel Tov to Rabbi Randy Brown and Ari Brown, on the birth of their third son! Mazel Tov!

If you have given names for the Get Well list recently, and those people have recovered or passed, please let Sara know in the office so she can revise the list.



Tu B'Shevat

We will celebrate Tu B'Shevat at our Oneg Shabbat on Friday, February 10. We will taste the fruits and nuts from Israel and conduct a short Tu B'Shevat Seder.



Purim

We will be reading the Megillah and having a Costume contest, so dress up as Esther, Queen Vashti or Haman! Our Purim Extravaganza will be on Saturday Night, March 11 at 8:30 PM in the Belvoir Chapel. We will be having hamentashen, a light nosh, and loads of fun!

Be Happy—Adar is soon!



Adult Education is BACK!

We will be having some Adult Education programs—Movie Afternoons—but **YOU HAVE TO COME!** Watch for more info on the weekly email blasts and flyers in the mail!

If you have any ideas of pro-

grams you would like to see, let Sara know and we can make it happen!



Hebrew School!

We think we found a Hebrew Teacher. Stay tuned for more information about when classes will start. It will be on Sunday's again—in the morning. It has been a long process, but it looks like our patience has paid

off. Keep checking emails for more updates!

JAC

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Chaim Tovim - Life is Good!

FBJC

Fort Belvoir Jewish Congregation Mission Statement

We will create and sustain a learning and participatory congregation that will enhance the congregants' appreciation of liturgy, Torah and holidays, enhance congregational fellowship and a sense of community, and project our Jewish presence to the surrounding communities. Our congregation will effectively plan and conduct religious services as well as cultural, social and other activities that encourage the participation and fulfill the broad spectrum of needs of our DoD congregants.

